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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

University Communications
Missoula, MT 59812
(406) 243-2522

Sept. 25, 1992

UM WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNIT NAMES NEW LEADER

MISSOULA --

Joe Ball has been named leader of the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, based at The University of Montana.

He became leader on Sept. 7 after serving as acting leader since the end of June, when Bart O'Gara retired after heading the unit since 1978. Ball had been assistant leader since 1979.

His duties include conducting research, acting as a liaison between UM and federal and state agencies, advising graduate students and obtaining and maintaining research equipment. In spring semester 1993, he'll teach Biological Writing and a course on habitat fragmentation and bird populations.

One of his current projects is evaluating the effects of habitat fragmentation and predator-prey imbalances on ground-nesting bird populations in Montana and south central Idaho. He also plays an active role in the Five Valleys Wetland Conservation Project, which is aimed at protecting, restoring and improving western Montana wetland habitats.

Before starting work at UM, Ball taught at Washington State University and was a research officer at South Africa's University of Capetown. He's also been a National Institutes of Health research fellow at the University of Minnesota and a wildlife technician for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center in Jamestown, N.D.

Ball holds three degrees in wildlife biology: a doctorate and master's from the University

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of Minnesota and a bachelor's from Utah State University.

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Contact: Joe Ball, 243-5372

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